







CORNELIUS,  
THE DARK.

OLD WIZARD.  
OLD MASTER.  
OLD ENEMY. NOW  
FINALLY... TOO  
OLD.

≥TCH≤



SUMMONING  
ME IN A ROOM  
FULL OF HELLISH  
ARTIFACTS --

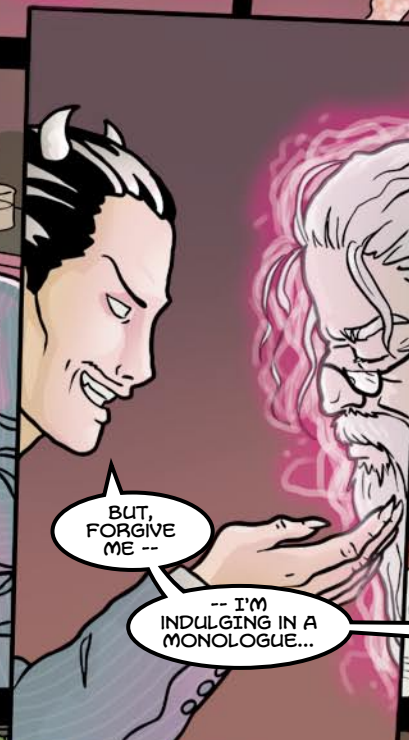
-- HAD IT NOT  
OCCURRED TO YOU  
THAT SOME OF THESE  
TRINKETS MIGHT ONCE  
HAVE BEEN  
MINE?

SO USED  
TO ME BEING  
POWERLESS IN YOUR  
MUNDANE LITTLE  
WORLD...



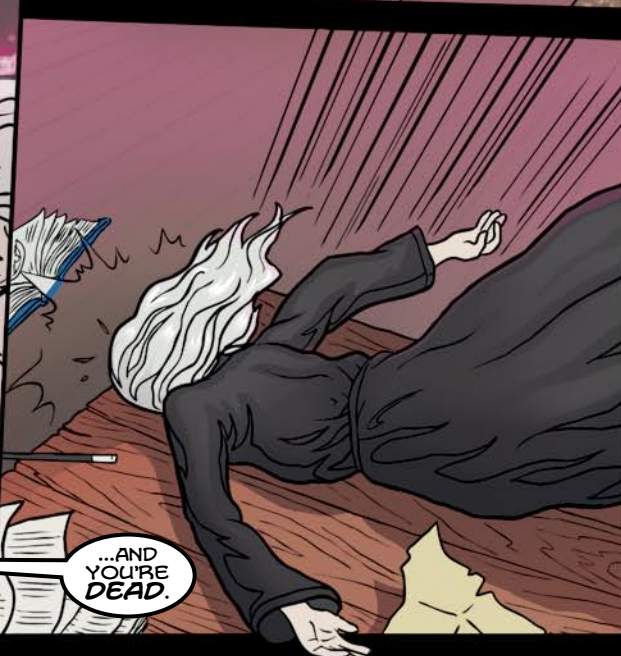
HOW VERY  
THOUGHTFUL OF YOU  
TO STEAL EXACTLY WHAT  
I NEEDED TO END  
YOUR LIFE.

NOT  
TO MENTION  
RULE YOUR PATHETIC  
LITTLE PLANET  
LIKE A GOD!



BUT,  
FORGIVE  
ME --

-- I'M  
INDULGING IN A  
MONOLOGUE...



...AND  
YOU'RE  
DEAD.



YOU  
HURT  
ME.

THAT  
MAKES YOU  
SPECIAL.







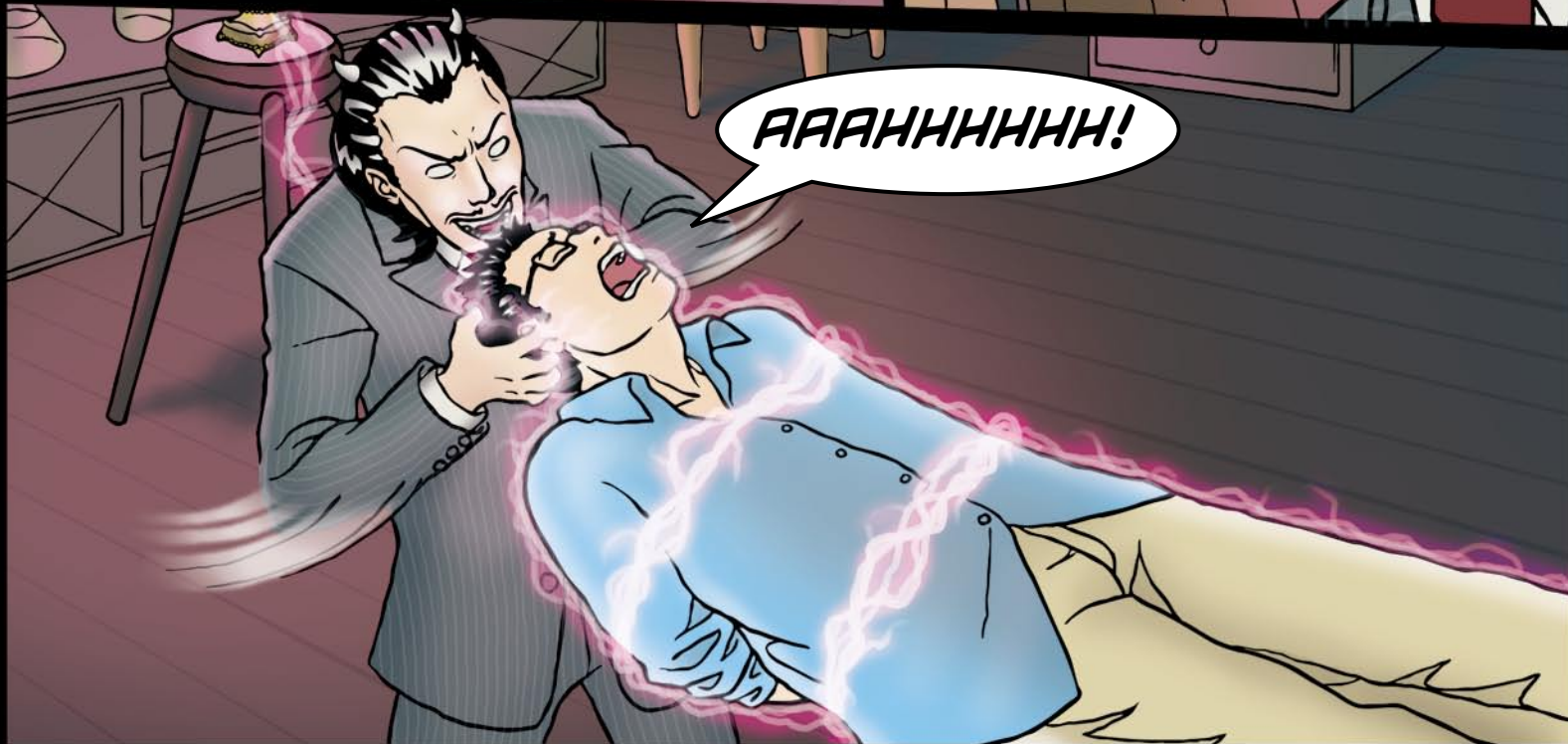
PERHAPS  
YOUR ELDERS  
MIGHT OFFER SOME...  
CORRECTION.



















LET. HIM. GO.



I THINK NOT.



OH, HO HO! I SEE.

BUGGERING THE SENIOR APPRENTICE...

COLOR ME EVEN MORE IMPRESSED, LITTLE MOUSE!

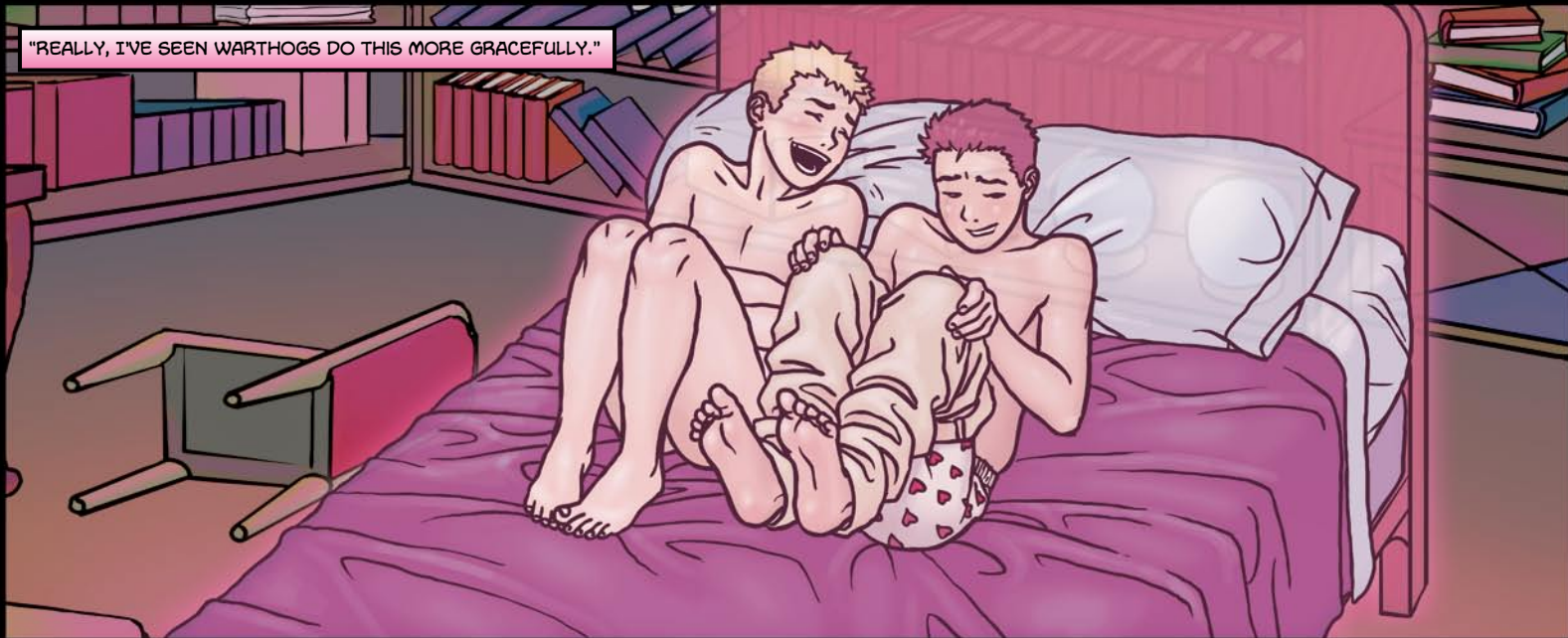


"YOUR FIRST TIME, I TAKE IT?"

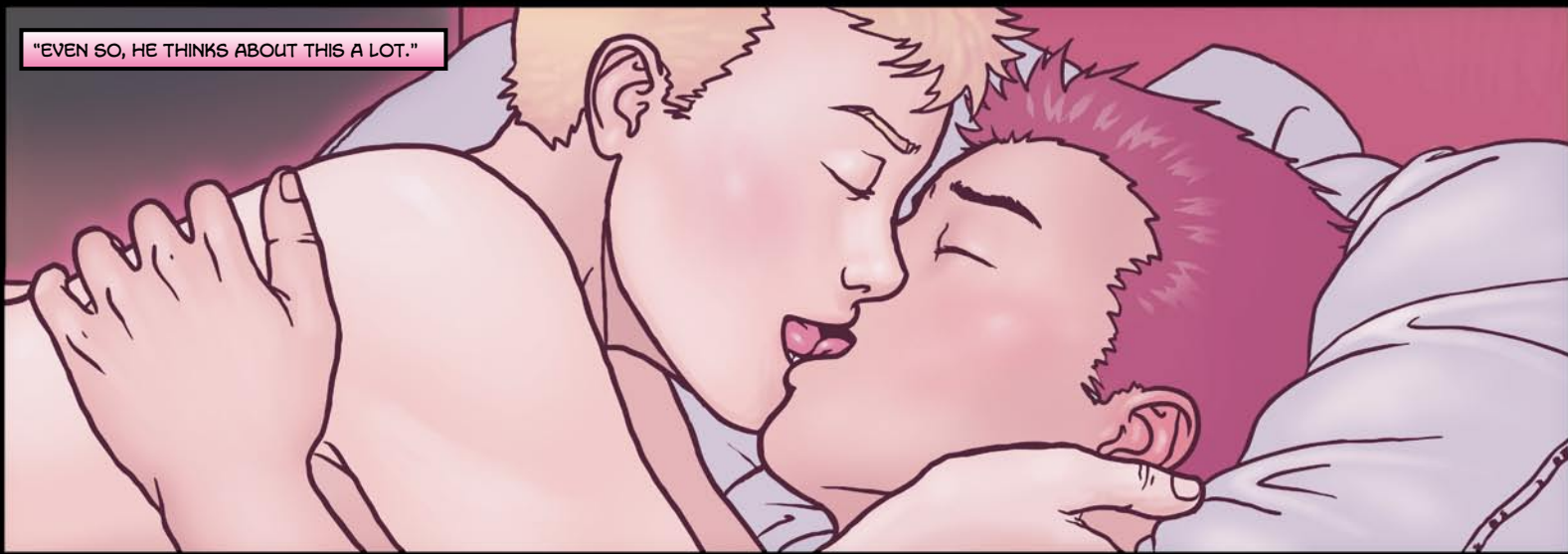
"SUCH ABYSMAL TECHNIQUE -- IT MUST BE."



"REALLY, I'VE SEEN WARTHOGS DO THIS MORE GRACEFULLY."



"EVEN SO, HE THINKS ABOUT THIS A LOT."











IF YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR MATERIAL, I'D RECOMMEND LEVITICUS 20:13.

IT'S A PERSONAL FAVORITE.



OH, I THINK YOU'LL LIKE *THIS* ONE A WHOLE LOT BETTER.

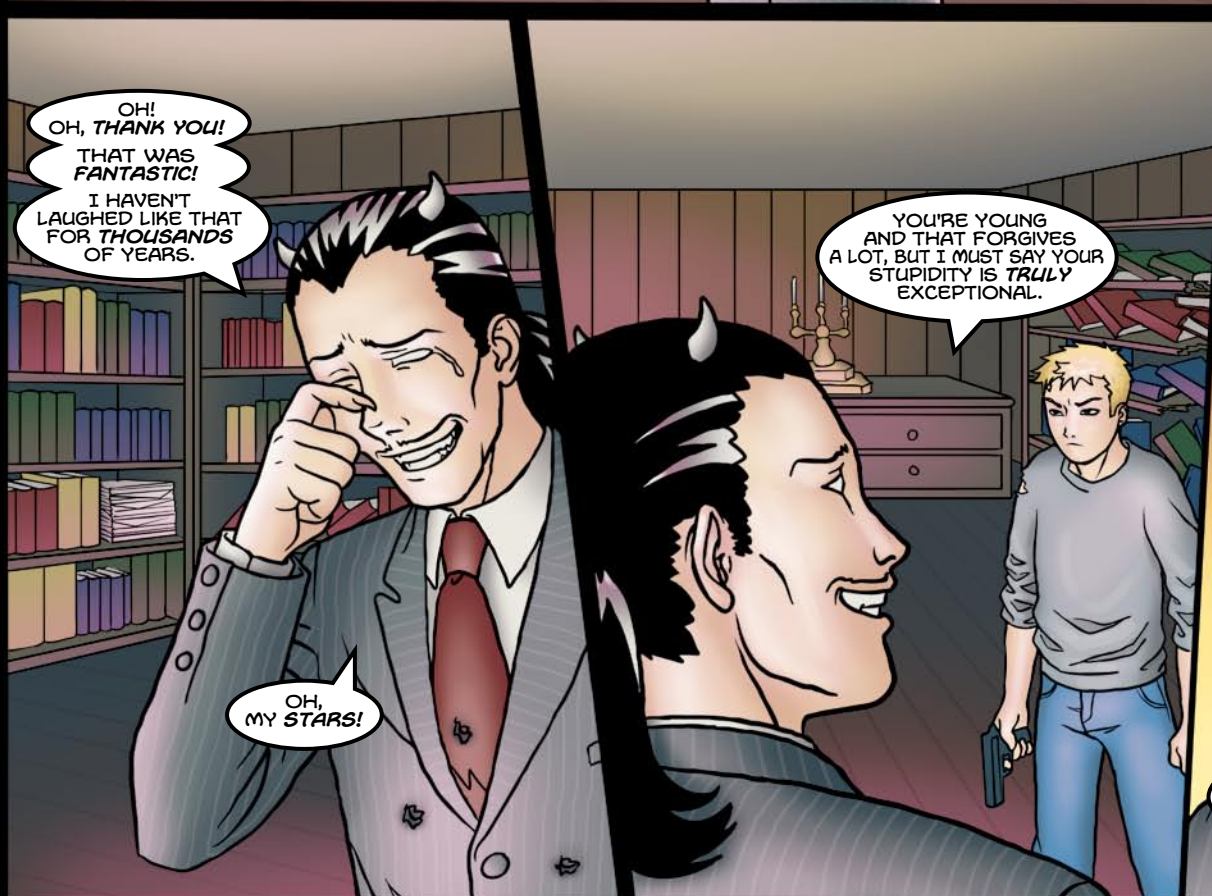


**BANG**  
**BANG**  
**BANG**

**DIE! DIE! DIE!**



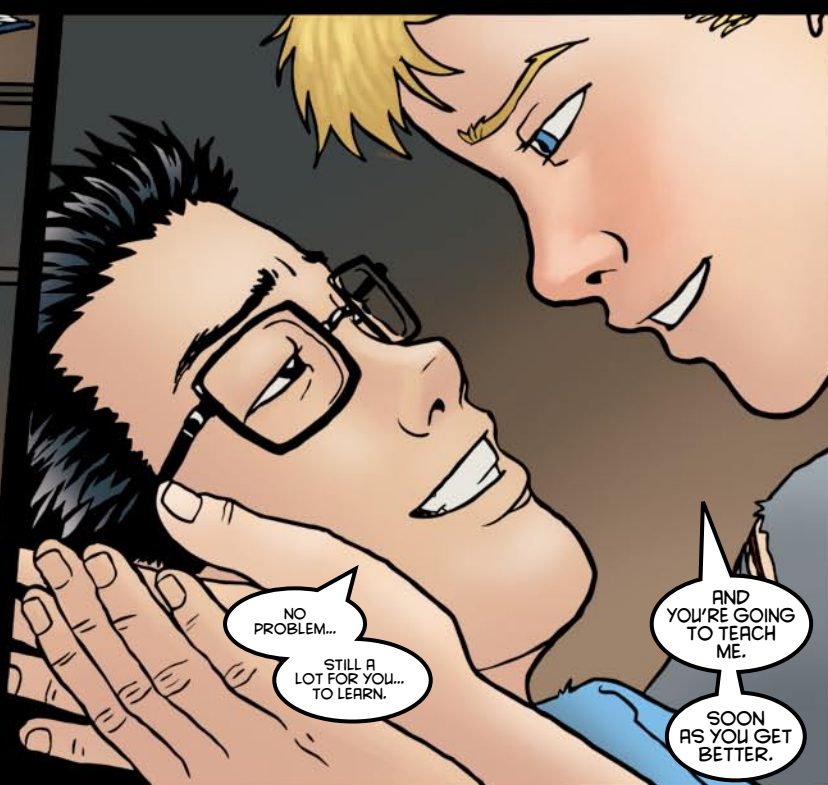










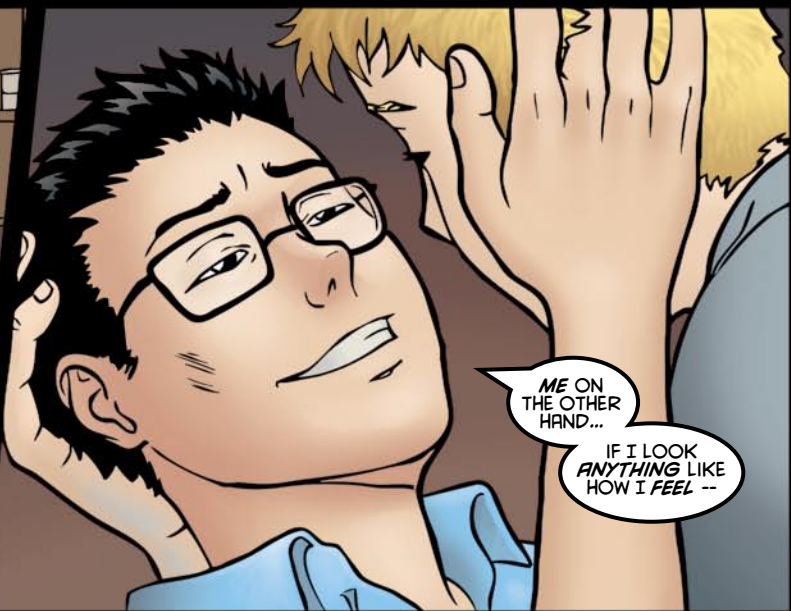






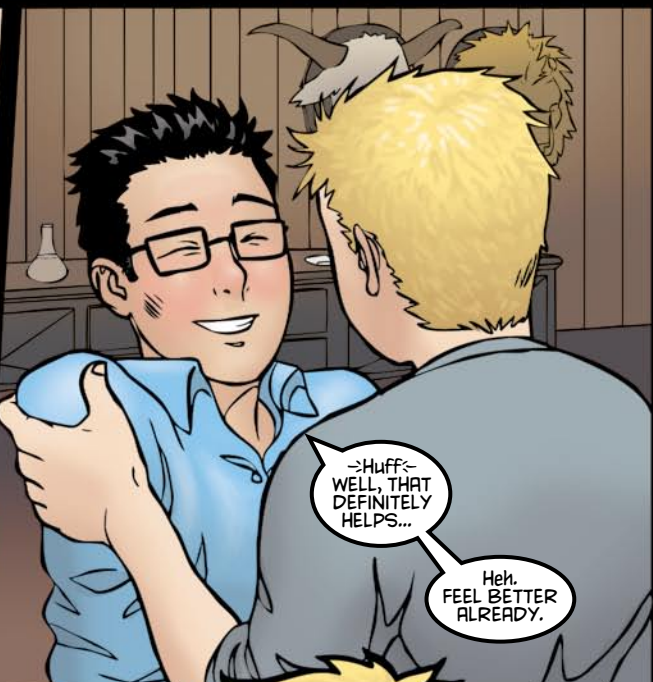
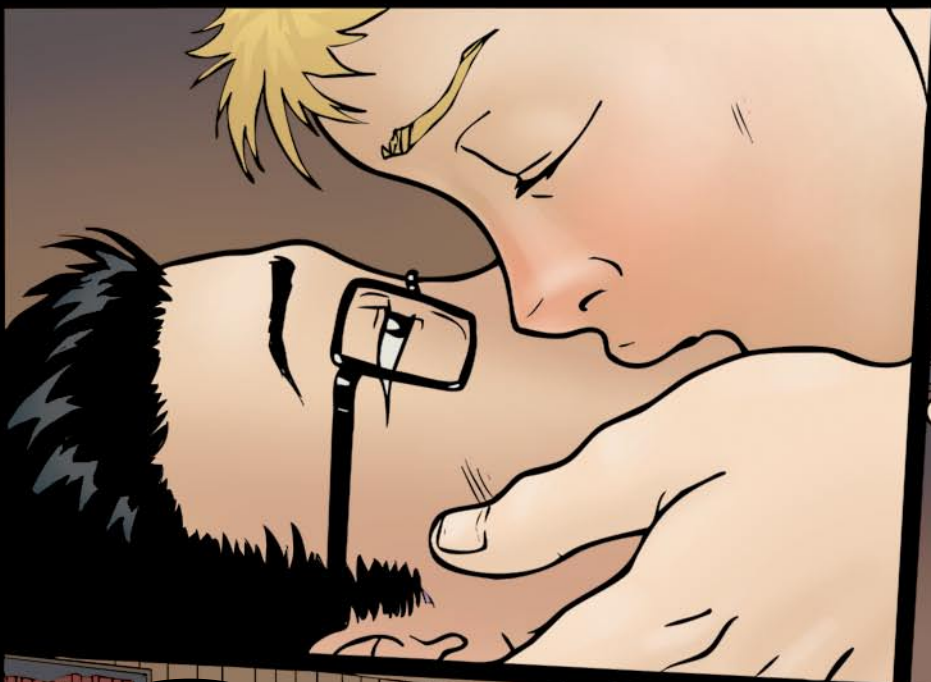
LOOK AT YOU.  
ALL MESSED UP.

STILL  
CUTE AS  
HELL.



ME ON  
THE OTHER  
HAND...

IF I LOOK  
ANYTHING LIKE  
HOW I FEEL --



-HUFF-  
WELL, THAT  
DEFINITELY  
HELPS...

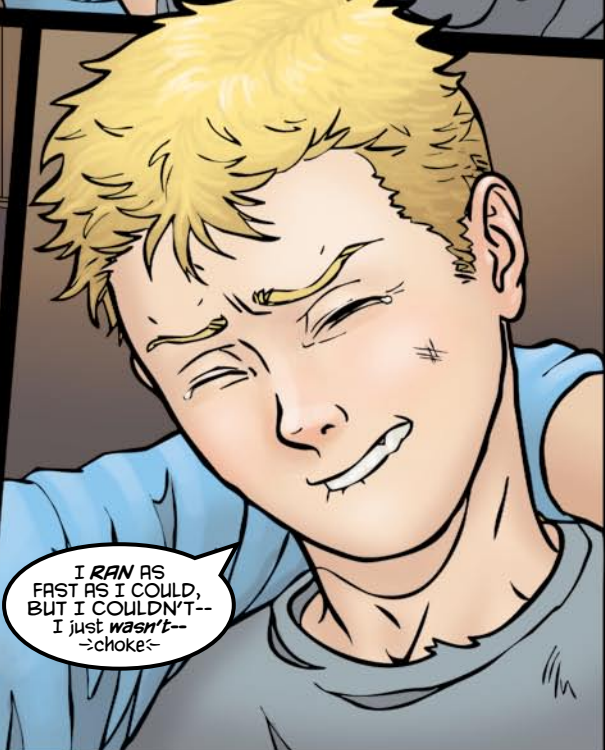
Heh.  
FEEL BETTER  
ALREADY.



WOW. WE  
REALLY SCREWED  
UP, HUH?

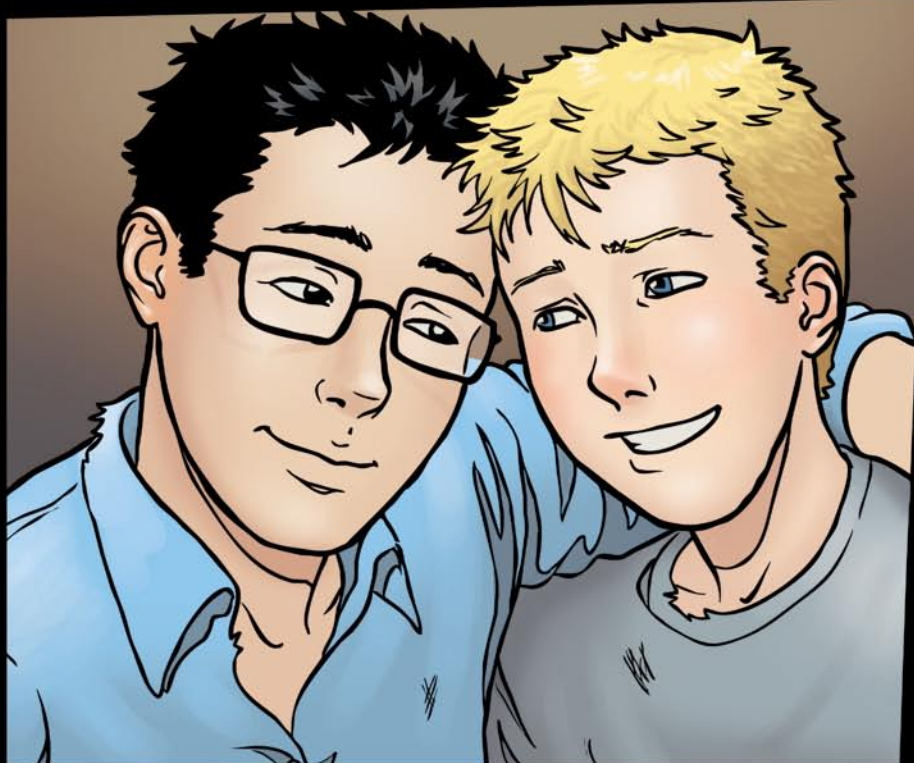
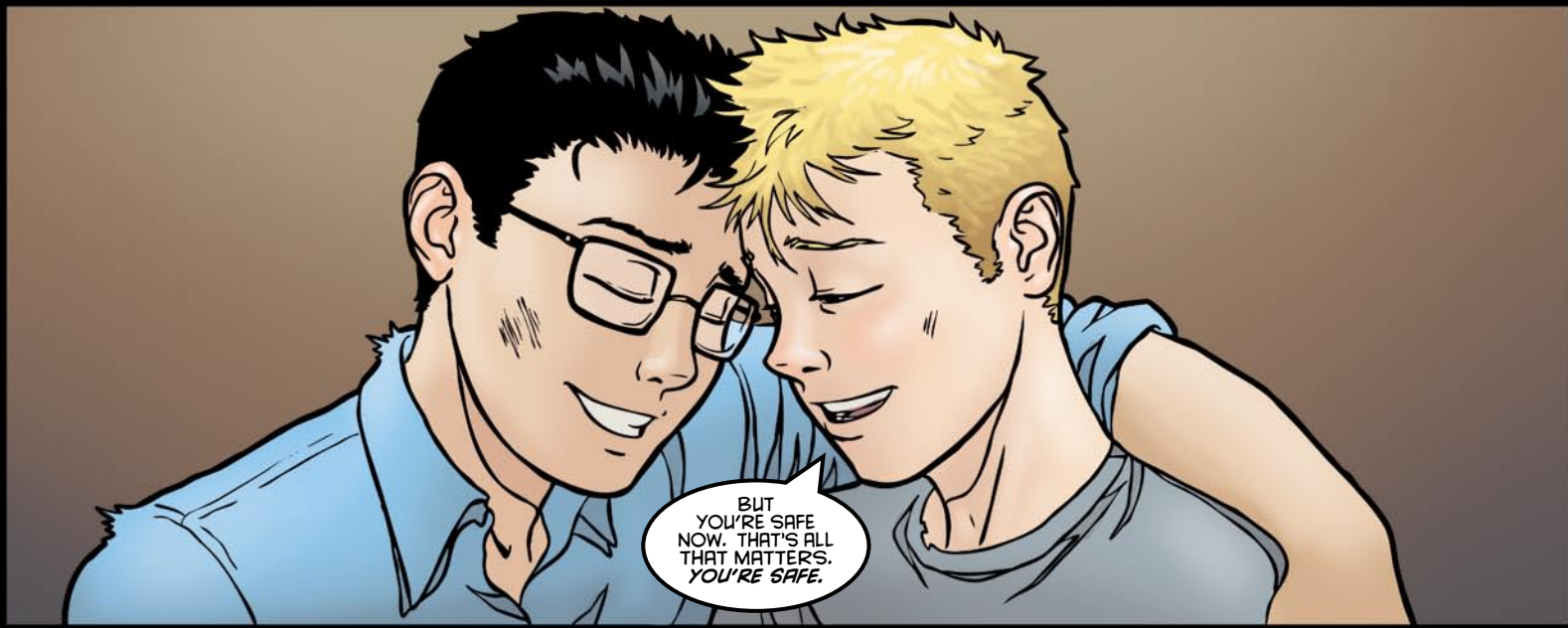
HOW  
ARE THE  
OTHERS?

THEY'RE  
DEAD. ALL  
OF 'EM.



I RAN AS  
FAST AS I COULD,  
BUT I COULDN'T--  
I just wasn't--  
-choke-









# FREE TALK

Hey Everyone! Alex here. Thank you so much for reading our first comic, "A Shot in the Dark." I hope you enjoyed it! It's the first story in our upcoming three-story book, *Yaoi 911: Firsts*, and it's been a blast putting it together.

When I was first thinking of publishing a full-color book of short yaoi comics early last year, I knew I wanted to create a story I could give out as a "free sample." But it had to meet certain criteria: I wanted it to be a complete story. I wanted it to be short enough for everyone to download. But, most importantly, it had to give readers a real sense of the mix of sweet romance and shonen-style action that would be in the other stories in our book.

Where did the original idea for "A Shot in the Dark" come from? A mental image, actually – something I had been thinking for some time might be fun to draw (if I could actually, *ahem*, draw): I had this vivid picture in my mind of a Junior Apprentice stumbling into a room to find his boyfriend, the Senior Apprentice, at the mercy of a demon. The boyfriend would be suspended in the air, bound by bands of energy, and the Junior Apprentice would be hiding in the shadows desperately trying to figure out how to save him. (I believe I had been looking at a lot of Poser artwork on the web at the time, most of it featuring scantily clad women in magical-fantasy situations, thinking "This is kinda cool, yet, there's something missing. Hmmm... What could it be? Oh, yes -- the scantily clad guys in magical-fantasy situations!" Thus, the creation of my own little imaginary picture...)

Now, the truth is, I get my best story ideas from daydreams and these will often start out with an image or a short exchange of dialogue rolling around in my head that turns me on in some way (and no, not always *that* way, but in this case, well...). Anyway, I stepped into the shower one Saturday afternoon with that very image in my mind and in between the lather and the rinse, watched the entire story you've just read play out in my mind. And I knew right there and then: *that's* the one.

So, I wrote the script and then posted want-ads on artist websites looking for the right artists for the piece -- and boy did I find them in Karla Díaz C. and Winona Nelson!

I received close to 200 responses to my postings for artists, but was immediately won over by the strong composition, great narrative sense and naturalistic shonen-style of art



that I saw on Karla's DeviantArt page. Once I reached out to her, Karla's firm sense of professionalism and strong work ethic carried through in all of our correspondence — further convincing me that she was the right choice for this comic. And even though she lived in Chile, working with her through the Internet turned out to be very easy and I found myself eagerly awaiting the next email that would contain the newest revisions of the pages. In a matter of a few months, she had created beautiful finished penciled pages for this comic which you can see for yourself over at the Yaoi 911 [website](http://www.yaoi911.com).

Once the penciled pages were created, it was time to ink and color them, and that's when the brilliant and talented Winona Nelson entered my life. Her finishing skills were head and shoulders above that of any other artist whose work I'd seen, but it soon became clear that she was so much more than a technical virtuoso -- viewing the pages on her website, you could immediately tell that she had a very deep sense of story and character. Her art wasn't just a representation of life, it had a life of its own. (And now she's here in San Francisco with me, creating the art from start to finish for the other two stories in the book!) Honestly, collaborating with Winona is both very inspirational and very humbling. And for "A Shot in the Dark," I think she took some great pencilwork and, yes, made it truly live. I feel very lucky to be working with her.

The truth is, I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to tell these stories at all. My day job is as a filmmaker and for years, there have been visual stories I have wanted to create that have just been too expensive to make as films. And now here's one of them, full-blown, right in front of me, in living color. I can't even begin to tell you how happy that makes me feel. And this is just the beginning — right now, Winona and I are hard at work on the second story of the book, "Artifice", about a misunderstood android assassin who falls in love with the guy he was supposed to kill. It's much longer — 88 pages — it's coming along great and I can't wait to share it with you. It's a bit more serious, but also, a bit more sexy — I think you'll like it. ;-)

I do hope *this* story was enough to pique your interest in reading more and that you'll be willing to overlook the failings of a yaoi writer just starting out. I've tried to tell the kind of story I've always wanted to read. If it turned out to be something you enjoyed or thought was interesting, please let me know. I'd love to hear from you.

Your friend in yaoi,

Alex Woolfson  
August 2007

[www.yaoi911.com](http://www.yaoi911.com)